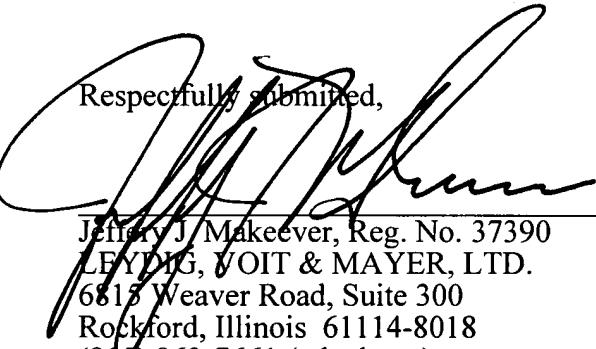


REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending in the application. Claims 1-18, and 21-22 are allowed. Claims 19, 20, and 23-25 are hereby canceled without prejudice to the Applicant's right to file a continuation application for the subject matter of these claims.

In view of the above the Applicant respectfully submits that all claims remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, claims 1-18 and 21-22 having previously been indicated as allowable over the prior art. Since all rejections in this application are rendered moot by virtue of this amendment, Applicant respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-18 and 21-22 at an early date.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephonic conversation will aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.


Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY J. MAKEEVER, Reg. No. 37390
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
6815 Weaver Road, Suite 300
Rockford, Illinois 61114-8018
(815) 963-7661 (telephone)
(815) 963-7664 (facsimile)

Date: March 5, 2004